

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, HU, OEXC, CSCE

SUBJECT: SIGNING OF EXCHANGE AGREEMENT - PRESS GUIDANCE

REF: STATE 71668

1. IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRESS RELEASE TRANSMITTED REFTTEL,
DEPARTMENT'S PRESS OFFICE HAS BEEN GIVEN GUIDANCE FOR RE-
SPONDING TO QUESTIONS. EMBASSY MAY ALSO WISH TO DRAW ON
THIS GUIDANCE.

2. GUIDANCE FOLLOWS: US-HUNGARIAN EXCHANGES AGREEMENT.
FYI: FOR THE BRIEFER ONLY. WHILE HUNGARIAN PERFORMANCE
ON CSCE IMPLEMENTATION IS PROBABLY THE BEST IN THE WARSAW
PACT, WE DO NOT WISH TO BE TOO LAUDATORY A4D PROVOKE SOVIET
DISPLEASURE AT THE HUNGARIANS. END FYI.

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Q: IS THERE ANY SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE IN FACT THAT DEPART-
MENT HAS ANNOUNCED THE SIGNING OF THE US-HUNGARIAN EX-
CHANGES AGREEMENT?

A: THIS IS THE FIRST SUCH INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXCHANGES
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE US AND HUNGARY. WE CONSIDER

IT SIGNIFICANT BOTH AS AN MARK OF CONTINUING PROGRESS IN
OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND AS AN IMPORTANT TOOL FOR

IMPLEMENTATING PROVISIONS OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT.

Q: WITH WHICH OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES DOES THE US HAVE
SUCH EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS?

A: WE NOW HAVE AGREEMENTS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND RO-
MANIA, AND NEGOTIATIONS ARE BEING HELD WITH BULGARIA
AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

Q: WHY DO YOU NOT HAVE AGREEMENTS WITH POLAND, YUGO-
SLAVIA AND THE GDR?

A: WITH POLAND AND YUGOSLAVIA WE HAVE CONDUCTED EXTEN-
SIVE EXCHANGE PROGRAMS SINCE THE LATE 1950'S WITHOUT
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS. OUR EXPERIENCE HAS
BEEN THAT WHERE THESE EXCHANGES ARE ALREADY FLOURISHING
AND BOTH SIDES HAVE EXPERIENCE IN CONDUCTING THEM FOR-
MAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS ARE NOT NECESSARY.
FURTHERMORE, BECAUSE OF THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR
IN US CULTURE AND EDUCATION, THE ROLE OF THE US GOVERN-
MENT IS NOT PREDOMINANT IN SUCH EXCHANGES, SINCE MOST
OF THEM ARE CONDUCTED BETWEEN PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS AND
INDIVIDUALS.

WITH THE GDR, AS YOU KNOW, WE ESTABLISHED RELATIONS
ONLY RECENTLY, AND WE ARE NOW DISCUSSING WITH THEM A
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NUMBER OF AREAS IN WHICH WE CAN NORMALIZE AND IMPROVE RE-
LATIONS.

Q: IN A RECENT INTERVIEW, CONGRESSMAN VANIK SUGGESTED THAT
THE US SHOULD EXTEND MFN TO HUNGARY AND RETURN THE
CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN. IS THIS AGREEMENT RELATED IN ANY
WAY?

A: IN BRINGING THESE VIEWS TO THE SECRETARY'S ATTENTION
RECENTLY, MR. VANIK WROTE THAT "WE SHOULD CONTINUE
IN EFFORTS TO EXPAND OUR RELATIONSHIPS" WITH EASTERN
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THE CONCLUSION OF THIS EXCHANGE
AGREEMENT WITH HUNGARY IS EVIDENCE OF OUR DESIRE THAT
SUCH EFFORTS CONTINUE.

Q: WHAT IS THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION ON MFN FOR HUN-
GARY AND ON THE JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT?

A: THE ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT YET FORMULATED A POSITION

ON THE QUESTION OF REVISING THE JACKSON-VANIK
AMENDMENT.

Q: ON RETURN OF THE CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN?

A: THERE ARE NO PRESENT PLANS TO RETURN THE CROWN TO
HUNGARY. OUR POSITION REMAINS THAT THE QUESTION OF ITS
RETURN WILL BE ADDRESSED IN THE LIGHT OF IMPROVED
BILATERAL RELATIONS.

Q: WHY IS ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN IN BUDAPEST?

A: MR. HARTMAN HAS ACCEPTED A LONG-STANDING INVITATION
FROM DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER JANOS NAGY (RHYMES
WITH DODGE). HE IS CONDUCTING A GENERAL REVIEW OF
BILATERAL RELATIONS, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF EX-
PANDING TRADE AND CULTURAL TIES. AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS
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ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CSCE AND THE FORTHCOMING BEL-
GRADE CSCE MEETING IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE.
VANCE

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